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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

Signal Battalion in Potsdam-Eiche of the Potsdam KVP Division

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EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 8 March 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The Signal Battalion in Potsdam-Eiche was subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior in Berlin and the Potsdam KVP Bereitschaft, Office No 2648, whose staff included Colonel Ernst , commander, and Lieutenant Fischer (fnu), radio engineer. 1 The unit was quartered in the former Flak Kaserne in Potsdam-Eiche on the Golm road and had the designation "D 1-Abteilung". 2

2. The headquarters of the unit included 14 officers and 2 NCOs; the supply platoon had 1 officer, 5 NCOs and 15 EM; the 1st (radio-communications) Co had 4 officers, 8 NCOs and 22 EM; the 2d (telephone-communications) Co had 5 officers, 9 NCOs and 36 EM; and the 3d Co had 8 officers, 12 NCOs and 39 EM. The 3d Co combining the headquarters company and the instruction company, had no special company headquarters. The actual strength of enlisted men of the D 1-Abteilung was somewhat below authorized strength. The actual strength of NCOs exceeded authorized strength.

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the authorized strength of the unit was 23 officers, 24 NCOs and 140 enlisted men.

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3. Officers of the unit included Major Gerhard Kellert, commanding officer, who was promoted to the rank of major on 7 November 1953; Senior Lieutenant Armin Bahle, deputy for general affairs; Senior Lieutenant Gustav Westphal, chief of staff; Senior Lieutenant Krueger (fnu), cryptographer officer; Lieutenant Gerhard Schmidt, leader of the 1st Co; Lieutenant Wolf (fnu), leader of the 2d Co; and Senior Lieutenant Henker (fnu), leader of the instruction company.

4. Weapons of the unit included 10 model C-7 armored personnel carriers referred to as Bobbies; 10 light machine guns which were removed from the armored personnel carriers; 96 model M-1944 rifles; 37 model-1941 submachine guns; and 65 model TT-33 pistols.

5. Motor vehicles of the unit included 8 H-3-A trucks; 2 EMW sedans; 1 EMW P-1 command car; 2 ambulances including one Phaenomen Granit 27 ambulance; 4 Soviet-made radio trucks with sealed RBM stations; 1 model G-5 repair shop truck; and three 750-cubic cm motorcycles with sidecars. All vehicles were ready for use and in a good shape. The vehicles were conserved except for 2 H-3-A trucks, 1 ambulance and 1 sedan. Radio trucks and vehicles for the telephone-communications company were still expected to arrive.

6. Twenty percent of the men belonged to the 1936 class; 30 percent to the 1935 class; 20 percent to the 1934 class; 10 percent to the 1933 class; and 20 percent to older classes.

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7. The men included 90 percent serving less than three years; 9 percent serving three to five years; and 1 percent serving over five years.
8. Five percent of the soldiers came from Saxony/Anhalt; 15 percent from Saxony; 15 percent from Thuringia; 35 percent from Mecklenburg; 20 percent from Brandenburg; and 10 percent from Berlin.
9. Forty percent of the men were Communists; 15 percent were indifferent; and 45 percent were passive opponents. The morale of the men was poor because of new leave regulations limiting enlisted men's leave to 10 p.m. on workdays, 12 p.m. on Saturdays, and 11 p.m. on Sundays, and because of arrogance by, and better treatment of, officers.
10. No Soviet advisers were assigned to the D 1-Abteilung.
11. Although the new training year was scheduled to commence on 1 December 1953, training activity under this program had not begun prior to 21 December 1953. Training activity at the time of information still belonged to the intermediate short-time training scheduled to discontinue prior to 1 December 1953.

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12. Comment. The former Flak Kaserne probably is the Golm Kaserne (General Wever Kaserne). The signal battalion of the Potsdam Mech Div is carried in this Golm installation.
13. Comment. The actual strength of 180 men is about 90 percent of authorized strength which is 198 men. the authorized (war-time) strength of a signal battalion of a Soviet mechanized division is 255 men.

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